

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 05155 300753Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 SP-02
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-05 ARA-10 EUR-12
/153 W

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R 300602Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3684

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5155

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, ENRG, AS
SUBJECT: REGIONAL REPROCESSING IN THE PACIFIC

1. GJZAVE KELLEHER (PRIME MINISTER'S AND CABINET
DEPARTMENT) CALLED ABOUT A REPORT IN "THE AUSTRALIAN"
THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD PROPOSED A REGIONAL NUCLEAR
FUEL STORAGE AND REPROCESSING PLANT IN THE PACIFIC FOR
USE BY AUSTRALIA, JAPAN, AND OTHER NATIONS.
ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE REGIONAL PLANT WOULD BE UNDER
MULTILATERAL CONTROL AND ITS PURPOSE WOULD BE TO DIS-
COURAGE THE CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL NUCLEAR FACILITIES
BY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND MAKE INTERNATIONAL SURVEIL-
LANCE EASIER. THE PACIFIC PLANT WOULD BE SIMILAR TO REGIONAL
FACILITIES ALSO PROPOSED FOR LATIN AMERICA AND EUROPE.

2. KELLEHER NOTED THAT THE M U A I R W K A OF A REGIONAL FACILITY

FOR NUCLEAR WASTES HAD BEEN DISCUSSED DURING THE RECENT
VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY US NUCLEAR AFFAIRS TEAM, BUT DID NOT
RECALL THE QUESTION OF REGIONAL REPROCESSING RPT
REPROCESSING ARISING. ALTHOUGH REPROCESSING WAS
DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS, KELLEHER'S QUESTION WAS
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PAGE 02 CANBER 05155 300753Z

"WHAT PRECISELY DID PRESIDENT CARTER PROPOSE AND IN
WHAT CONTEXT?"

3. KELLEHER WAS A BIT EMBARRASSED TO ADMIT THAT THE
NEWS REPORT IN QUESTION APPEARED IN THE JUNE 12
EDITION OF "THE AUSTRALIA", SAID THE "REPROCESSING"
FACET HAD SLIPPED BY THE GOA AT THE TIME OR THEY

WOULD HAVE ASKED ABOUT IT WHEN THE US TEAM WAS HERE.
THEY REALIZE THAT OUR GENERAL POSITION IS IN FAVOR
OF MULTINATIONAL PLANTS, BUT WE WERE UNABLE TO IDENTIFY
THE TEXT OF ANY PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT THAT MAY HAVE
BEEN THE SOURCE OF THE STORY IN "THE AUSTRALIAN."
ANY COMMENTS THAT WE COULD PASS TO THE GOA WOULD BE
WELCOMED. PLEASE ADVISE.
SQUIRE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER05155
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780272-0409
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978065/aaaaadls.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 63b75087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2316324
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REGIONAL REPROCESSING IN THE PACIFIC
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, ENRG, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/63b75087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014